

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

27 August 1985

The PW/MIA Talks: What Happened to Thach? []

25X1

Summary

The weight of the evidence available to us suggests the Vietnamese--and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, in particular--hoped for a successful visit by the US PW/MIA delegation. Although we cannot rule out the possibility that Hanoi tried to manipulate the visit by having Thach conspicuously absent, we believe it is more likely that the Vietnamese proceeded in good faith, assuming that the necessary groundwork for successful talks had been prepared, with or without Thach's personal involvement. []

25X1

This memorandum was prepared by [] Southeast Asia Division, Office of East Asian Analysis. Research was completed on 27 August. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to Chief, Southeast Asia Division, OEA []

25X1

25X1

25X1

Copy 31 of 55

EA M 85-10159C

25X1

Hanoi has increased its emphasis on normalization of relations with the United States over the past several months as part of a broader strategy to break out of the isolation caused by its Cambodia policy.

25X1

Thach may have felt that, having established a firm foundation for the talks, his own personal presence during the US delegation's visit would not be vital to its success. We doubt, given the apparent importance Hanoi has assigned to improving prospects for normalization with Washington, that Thach would deliberately absent himself from the talks simply to demonstrate Hanoi's concern that it be treated as an "equal" in dealing with the United States.

25X1

Furthermore, [redacted] planning for Thach's Moscow trip was under way as of 13 August, three days before Hanoi agreed to accept the US delegation. This sequence would appear to rule out any late "summons" from Moscow as the reason for his absence from Hanoi during the PW/MIA talks. A 26 August press report indicates Thach was scheduled to spend only one day in Moscow for a possible meeting with Foreign Minister Schevardnadze before proceeding to the nonaligned meeting in Luanda, Angola* that begins 2 September. It appears that Thach's attendance at the NAM meeting, which probably was planned for some time, is the primary reason for his absence from Hanoi during the US delegation's visit. We have no information whether Hanoi considered cancelling the Moscow and Luanda visits in light of the later agreement to host the PW/MIA talks.

25X1

25X1

25X6

Thach's stand-in, Vice Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang, is the most senior of eight officials of that rank and serves as Acting Foreign Minister during Thach's absences from Hanoi. He is known as a forceful spokesman and has travelled widely in the past several years. Although we have little firm information on his political standing, we believe he is fully empowered to act in Thach's stead. He will probably represent Vietnam at the UN General Assembly as Thach indicated in mid-June that he would not attend this year's session. [REDACTED]

25X1

SUBJECT: The PW/MIA Talks: What Happened to Thach?

Distribution:

Copy 1 - OEA/SEA/ITM
Copy 2 - James Kelly, Department of Defense
Copy 3 - Jay Taylor, INR/EA/State
Copy 4 - Richard Childress, NSC
Copy 5 - Alan Kitchens, INR/State
Copy 6 - Dottie Avery, INR/State
Copy 7 - Lyall Breckon, EAP/VLK/State
Copy 8 - Paula Causey, INR/State
Copy 9 - Joseph Winder, EAP/IMBS/State
Copy 10 - Frazier Meade, EAP/TB/State
Copy 11 - [redacted] NSA
Copy 12 - [redacted] DIA
Copy 13 - [redacted] DIA
Copy 14 - [redacted] DIA
Copy 15 - [redacted] DIA
Copy 16 - [redacted] DIA
Copy 17 - Richard Rice, Department of Defense
Copy 18 - William Wise, Department of Defense
Copy 19 - Alice Straub, INR/State
Copy 20 - Nicholas Mauger, State/Thai Desk
Copy 21 - John Monjo, DASecretary/EAP/State
Copy 22 - [redacted] DIA/AT-3
Copy 23 - Commodore James Cossey, OSD/ISA/DoD
Copy 24 - DDI
Copy 25 - NIO/EA
Copy 26 - [redacted] C/PPS/DDO
Copy 27 - Senior Review Panel
Copy 28 - [redacted] OCR/DDI
Copy 29 - CPAS/ILS
Copy 30 - 34 - CPAS/IMC/CB
Copy 35 - OCR/EA/A/DDI
Copy 36 - C/EA [redacted] DDO
Copy 37 - OCR/ISG/DDI
Copy 38 - C/PES/DDI
Copy 39 - PDB Staff
Copy 40 - Chairman/NIC
Copy 41 - D/OEA
Copy 42 - OEA/Research Director
Copy 43 - Ch/NEA/OEA
Copy 44 - Ch/Ch/OEA
Copy 45 - [redacted] NIC/Analytical Group
Copy 46 - C/SEA/OEA
Copy 47 - DC/SEA/OEA
Copy 48 - OEA/SEA/IB

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1